

Application No. 10/659,615  
Reply to Final Office Action Dated October 4, 2005

#### Amendments to the Claims

##### Listing of Claims:

- 1 (previously submitted). A kit for use in forming a dome structure, comprising
- a compression ring,
  - a plurality of components that are configured to be assembled into a lower ring that is larger than the compression ring and configured to be located below and in spaced relation to the compression ring, the components that are configured to be assembled into a lower ring comprising lower ring sections, each of which includes inner and outer ring parts joined together at predetermined locations, and splice components for use in joining lower ring sections to each other to form a lower ring with inner and outer ring parts,
  - a plurality of ribs that are configured to be connected with and to extend between the lower ring and the compression ring, the ribs each having a predetermined shape such that when connected with and extending between the lower ring and the compression ring, provide a structural system with a dome shaped appearance, and
  - hardware components for use in assembling the foregoing components.
2. (canceled)
- 3 (previously submitted). A kit as defined in claim 1, wherein the compression ring includes rib mounting flanges at predetermined locations on the compression ring, and the ribs having slots, the rib mounting flanges being located and configured such that a rib mounting flange can be received by a slot in a rib.
- 4 (currently amended). A kit as defined in claim 3, wherein a plurality of rib support members are fixed to the lower ring sections at predetermined locations such that when the lower ring is assembled each rib support member can be aligned with a respective rib mounting flange of the compression ring, whereby a rib supported on a rib support member is oriented so that a slot in the rib can conveniently receive the respective aligned slot in the rib rib mounting flange of the compression ring.
- 5 (original). A kit as defined in claim 4, wherein the rib support members comprise angle members fixed to portions of the lower ring sections.

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6 (original). A kit as defined in claim 5, wherein the compression ring is formed of metal, the ring sections are formed of metal, and the ribs are formed of wood.

7-8 (canceled).

9 (previously submitted). A method of forming a dome shaped structural system, comprising the steps of

- a. providing a compression ring,
- b. providing a lower ring with a larger but similar shape to the compression ring, by the steps of splicing together lower ring sections to form the lower ring,
- c. providing a plurality of ribs formed of wood and configured to extend between the lower ring and the compression ring,
- d. positioning the compression ring in relation to the lower ring such that the compression ring is above the lower ring and in centered relation to the lower ring, and
- e. connecting the ribs with the lower ring and the compression ring to form a dome shaped structural system.

10. (previously submitted) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein the compression ring has a plurality of rib mounting flanges, the lower ring has a plurality of rib support members, the ends of the ribs that are configured to be connected with the compression ring have slots, each of which is configured to be received by a respective rib mounting flange, and wherein the step of connecting the ribs with the lower ring and compression ring comprises positioning each rib with the end of the rib that is opposite to the slot resting on a rib support member and the slot receiving a respective rib mounting flange.

11. (canceled)

12 (new). A method of forming a dome shaped structural system, comprising the steps of

- a. providing a compression ring,
- b. providing a lower ring with a larger but similar shape to the compression ring, by the steps of splicing together lower ring sections to form the lower ring,

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- c. providing a plurality of ribs formed of wood and configured to extend between the lower ring and the compression ring,
- d. positioning the compression ring in relation to the lower ring such that the compression ring is above the lower ring and in centered relation to the lower ring, and
- e. connecting the ribs with the lower ring and the compression ring to form a dome shaped structural system;

wherein the compression ring has a plurality of rib mounting flanges, the lower ring has a plurality of rib support members, the ends of the ribs that are configured to be connected with the compression ring have slots, each of which is configured to be received by a respective rib mounting flange, and wherein the step of connecting the ribs with the lower ring and compression ring comprises positioning each rib with the end of the rib that is opposite to the slot resting on a rib support member and the slot receiving a respective rib mounting flange; and

wherein the step of providing the lower ring comprises providing a plurality of lower ring sections, each of which includes inner and outer ring parts joined together at predetermined locations, and joining the lower ring sections together to form the lower ring.